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SIRHAN SHOT RFK IN TRANCE, VIEW

Programmed Self Like Computer—Psychiatrist

By ARTHUR EVERETT

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan subconsciously programmed himself like a computer to assassinate Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, a psychiatrist testified Monday, then "accidentally committed the crime without knowing what was happening."

The opinion came from Dr. Bernard Diamond, who conducted hypnotic experiments on Sirhan. During one, the defendant gave a remarkable re-enactment of the slaying, said Diamond, a defense witness at Sirhan's murder trial.

"It was a startling experience —it was very real and dramatic," said Diamond of the mental rerun of the assassination as acted out by the 25-year-old Arab-born Sirhan.

PROGRAMMING HIMSELF

Through prior experiments by Sirhan in thought control, and self-hypnosis with the use of mirrors and candles, Diamond said: "With absolutely no knowledge he was gradually programming himself like a computer, programming himself for the coming assassination.

"He had no awareness of the plan, or that he, Sirhan, would be an instrument of the assassination.

"I am satisfied he had not consciously planned to be in that situation."

But, Diamond went on, Sirhan found himself drunk and in Kennedy's presence last June after passing through a hotel area of mirrors, reflecting chandeliers and television lights.

'PRESSING BUTTON'

"The mirrors in the hotel lobby, the flashing lights—this was like pressing a button that starts a computer," said Diamond. "This time it was for real. This time there was no pencil in his hand. This time the gun was loaded."

Under hypnosis, Sirhan recounted that he only wanted to shake Kennedy's hand when he first moved toward the senator. Instead, he shot him.

"It is my opinion . . ", Diamond continued, "that Sirhan at the precise moment of firing the gun was in a highly abnormal and psychotic state of mind expressed by blind, primitive, reflex-raged reaction".

Diamond, pointing out that Sirhan had practiced self-hypnosis at home with mirrors, said there was a self-inducted trance at the assassination scene "that began at the moment he felt very confused and dazed by the mirrors and the lights."

LANDRIEU TO SPEAK